

consists of Archæan gneisses, quartzites, amphibolite-schists, chloritic schists, and pegmatites. It is capped by purple grits, red sandstones, and conglomerates, which are covered by limestones of Neocomian, Turonian (? Cenomanian), and Eocene ages. The Neocomian limestone, which may be correlated with that of Singeli described by Rochebrune, occurs at Dobar in the Guban; while a Jurassic limestone, probably of Bathonian date, occurs at Bihendula in the Guban. Fossils collected from these limestones and from raised reefs of Pleistocene age, by Mr. and Mrs. Lort Phillips, Miss Gillet, Mr. G. P. V. Aylmer, Capt. E. T. Marshall, and Mr. F. B. Parkinson, have been examined by the author, who tabulates a list of corals and echinids. One new genus and fourteen new species of corals are described, belonging to the genera *Stylophora*, *Stylina*, *Columnastræa*, *Prionastræa*, *Favia*, *Metethmos*, *Cyclolites*, and *Litharæa*, and one new species of *Pseudodiadema*. The evidence of the collections is sufficient to show that a Neocomian limestone occurs both on the summit of the Somali plateau and on the floor of the Guban, and that some marine limestones of Lower Tertiary age (probably Eocene) also occur on the plateau. It is therefore evident that the foundering of the Aden Gulf is post-Eocene in age.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Question of Nomenclature.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,—I greatly regret to have again to intrude on your space with regard to a question of nomenclature.

I learn to my regret that this island is not the only part of Europe that harbours the pious priority-purist; a German ornithologist has, I am informed, proposed to apply the word *Apus* to the Swift!

What justification he can find in the numerous tomes that have been written about birds I know not, and do not seek to know.

I have, however, to submit that *Apus*, both by law and prescription, belongs to the freshwater crustacean that has for a century and a half been known by that name: for it was called *ἄπους* by Frisch in 1732; this was adopted in 1756 by Schäfer, who, on p. 131 of his 'Krebsartige Kiepenfüsse,' speaks of *Apus pisciformis*. I submit that Schäfer's generic name stands on an equality with those of Brisson or Artedi, which are expressly named in the note to law 2 of the British Association rules.

But I should like to go further. A law or a process which leads to the changing of so well-known a name is an abuse to good sense, and serves to bring our science into disrepute.

Your faithful Servant,

F. JEFFREY BELL.

April 11, 1900.

P.S.—I am reminded that Scopoli (Introd. Hist. Nat. 1777, p. 404) speaks of the genus *Apos* for *Monoculus apus*, Linn., and on p. 483 of *Apus* for *Hirundo apus*, Linn. That after the knowledge of this obvious misprint a priority-purist should continue to insist that the name of the Swift is *Apus* makes me regret my epithet of pious, and inclines me to one of a very different significance.